

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Sverdlovsk Oblast)

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SUBJECT Miniature Tank Production at Nizhni Tagil

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1. [redacted] an underground (sic) armament factory at Nizhni Tagil (57-54N, 60-00E) [redacted] produced miniature tanks, reportedly called "Lasmo Tanks," as well as turrets and barrels for the cannon of T-34 tanks, was built 15m underground (sic). The ground above the factory was covered by a mixed forest. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
2. The factory employed an average of 1600 workers, consisting of forced labor of all nationalities, primarily Soviet. The miniature tank section of the plant employed 900 and the tank turret and barrel section employed 700 workers. One twelve-hour shift was being worked.
3. [redacted] the miniature tank, describes [redacted] as follows: 75 cm. 50X1-HUM long; 50 cm wide; and 50 cm high. It resembles the T-34 in shape and its 50X1-HUM rear is rounded. The tank is controlled by two levers, one of which starts the engine and the other controls the direction of movement. In the middle of the interior there is a small engine and the front and rear end are packed with a highly sensitive explosive. The bottom of the tank body is covered with sheet iron and the top is covered by light armor plate. The tank explodes on contact with hard objects. It can travel up to 35 km but can be used only in flat country. Experiments [redacted] were character- ized by a yellow smoke column which rose to a considerable height. [redacted] the explosive force of the tank destroyed all life within a circumference of 15 km (sic, possibly meters?). The daily production of 50X1-HUM Lasmo tanks was six. 50X1-HUM
4. Approximately one km. from the miniature tank factory was another underground factory (sic) which produced the remaining portions of the T-34 tanks as well as sharpshooter carbines and sub-machine guns with circular drums holding 71 rounds. The daily production of carbines was 1200.
5. The city of Nizhni Tagil is surrounded by watch towers and guarded by units of the Soviet Army.

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